present records of American and British hospitals. As to the effects upon the patient, short of death, he claims that if chloroform be pleasanter to take, ether is the easier and quicker to recover from.

In conclusion, it is distinctly reiterated that the use of chloroform for purposes of anæsthesia, save under exceptional circumstances, is the needless assumption of a grave and awful responsibility.

The table showing the means employed in the different hospitals indicates a very great diversity in the anæsthetics, their combination, and the apparatus used. Out of forty-two institutions tabulated, fourteen mention only chloroform, and ten only ether. In two instances, ether, with or preceded by nitrous oxide gas, is alone mentioned. Out of fifteen hospitals naming ether and chloroform, employed separately or combined, about one-half speak indifferently of the two, or that the former is just coming into use, or that the latter is specially used for children, or in one or two cases express a decided preference for the more powerful agent. The other portion seem, so far as somewhat vague terms can be interpreted, to prefer ether, at least as to safety.

As a contribution to the cause of truth and humanity, we welcome this outspoken utterance from one whose position renders such frankness creditable, if not positively difficult. B. L. R.

Art. XL.—*The Microscopist: A Manual of Microscopy and Compendium of the Microscopic Sciences.* Third edition; re-written and greatly enlarged. By J. H. Wythe, A. M., M.D., Professor of Microscopy and Biology in the Medical College of the Pacific. 8vo. pp. 260. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1877.

This is a work for the student of nature, and not for the medical student or practitioner. Although it contains some six chapters upon the microscope and its accessories, on the methods of examination, and on the mounting and preserving of microscopic objects, yet from their comparative brevity and lack of minute detail, the author presupposes considerable knowledge in the possession of the student. It is a handsome octavo volume of some 250 pages, well, and in some respects, profusely illustrated, and printed in large, clear type on fine, thick paper. The printer and publisher have done their work well, and have rendered great pleasure to the reader.

The book partakes somewhat of the nature of Beale's two works, "How to work with the Microscope," and "The Microscope in Medicine," from which many of the illustrations are taken; but there is nothing like the detail here which one finds in the two works mentioned. The author has also drawn largely from Stricker, Frey, Billroth, and Rindfleisch for his illustrations, and he could not have gone to better sources. One feels the lack of necessary detail in the chapter on the "Modern Methods of Examination" especially, but recalls the fact that the book is not for the absolute beginner. A very good representation of Lawson's dissecting microscope is given on page 60.

Chapter VII. is devoted to the use of the microscope in mineralogy and geology, and is sufficiently full for the purpose when we consider the size of the work, though of course it does not claim to be a complete consideration of the subject. The chapter on the use of the microscope in chemistry is a good one, considerable attention being given to the use of the microspectroscope, and the study of absorption bands. Mention is also made of the possibility of modifying in various ways the method of crystallization of the substances. The author in this chapter has collected together and arranged the alkalies, acids, oxides, and alkaloids in separate groups for the purpose of easy reference, with a description of their microscopical appearances, and the effect of polarized light upon them.

The chapter on the microscope in biology is too brief to be of much service in the study of what is probably the most important branch of pure microscopical science.

That on the microscope in vegetable histology and botany is better, but we confess we do not see the use of giving within the narrow compass of a single chapter a list of the various orders of Fungi or of the Algæ, which may be found in any work on botany; and regard as a positive waste of important space the including of nine pages of analysis of the tribes and genera of Diatoms, taken from the Micrographic Dictionary.

The same objection may be urged against the next chapter on the microscope in zoology; there is not sufficient space given to the purely microscopic appearances of the lower orders of life. The section on insects is, however, a good one for one so brief.

The next two chapters are the concluding ones, and are the most important in the work, being devoted to animal histology and the microscope in pathology and medicine. These are the best in the book, and are sufficiently full. The discussion of the study of embryology, including the directions for preparing sections of the embryo is fairly good. We object, however, to the use of the words "hind brain" for posterior part of the brain, and deprecate the awkward expression "splanchnolepure folds."

In speaking of new formations, we think that the author errs in dividing tumours histologically into histoid and carcinomatous, which, to say the least, is a very doubtful division of a subject in our knowledge of which we are as yet far from perfect.

A glossary is appended, giving in clear, brief terms a definition of the various scientific terms used throughout the book. The index is a good one, and has been made with some care.

This work will not take the place of works of the class of "Beale on the Microscope," but may be of considerable service as a compendium of microscopical science, in which field lies its chief value. C. S. B.

Art. XLI.—*Transactions of State Medical Societies.*

1. *Transactions of the Nebraska State Medical Society. Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Annual Meetings.* 1874 to 1876. pp. 221. Lincoln, Neb., 1877.
2. *Transactions of the Kansas Medical Society,* May, 1876. pp. 67. Topeka, Kansas, 1877.
3. *Transactions of the Michigan State Medical Society,* May, 1876. pp. 363 to 497. Lansing, Mich., 1876.
4. *Transactions of the Vermont Medical Society,* for 1874, 5, and 6. pp. 397 to 562.

1. The triennial publication of the *Nebraska* Society contains a feature which we have not before noticed in works of its class. It consists of analytical sketches of the contents of "Transactions" issued by similar societies in other States. Obviously useful as these may be to the Fellows, they as obviously require no reference from us in this place. We incline to the opinion that they are better